By the King,

A PROCLAMATION

For Reſtraining all His Majeſties Subjects, but the Members and Agents of the *Eaſt-India* Company, to Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*, and Recalling ſuch as are there.

JAMES R.

WHereas the ſole Trade to the East-Indies, by divers Royal Grants, as well of the late King Our Dearly Beloved Brother of ever Bleſſed Memory, as other Our Noble Progenitors, hath been heretofore Granted to the Governour and Company of the Merchants of London, Trading to the East-Indies, with expreſs Prohibition to all other their Subjects to Trade there, and that ſuch Trade by the great Induſtry, Charge and Expence of the ſaid Company, hath for ſeveral years laſt paſt, been maintained and carried on to the great Honour and Profit of the Nation, till of late that ſeveral ill diſpoſed Perſons preferring their peculiar Gain before the Profit and Reputation of the Nation, and to the utter decay and overthrow of ſo beneficial a Trade to this Kingdom, which cannot be Supported Without the joynt Aſſiſtance and Managery by a Company, have in a Clandeſtine and Diſorderly manner Traded into thoſe Parts, in expreſs Diſobedience, not onely to the ſeveral Prohibitions contained in thoſe Letters Patents, but to divers Royal Proclamations ſet forth for that purpoſe, purſuant to the undoubted Prerogative of the Crown for Licencing, Limiting, and Regulating ſuch Foreign Trade into ſo remote parts of the World. And Whereas the late King Our Dearly beloved Brother, out of his abundant Grace and Tenderneſs to his Subjects, was Graciouſly pleaſed to permit his unqueſtionable Prerogative in that point, to be Argued and Diſputed at the Common Law, to the intent his Subjects might be without any excuſe for their Diſobedience, which having received a publick Deciſion and Determination in Our Higheſt Ordinary Court of Common Law; We do expect from all Our Loving Subjects an intire Obedience thereunto; And at the humble Petition of the ſaid Company, We do give Leave, and Direct, That ſuch Offenders, who contrary to the ſaid Letters Patents and Proclamations, have Contumaciouſly Invaded the ſaid Trade, in Contempt of the Crown and Dignity of Our late Brother, be proceeded againſt at Law, in Our Name, to the intent they may be Puniſhed according to their Demerits. And to the end all Our Loving Subjects may for the future avoid the Forfeitures and Penalties, which may be incurred by their Diſobedience in this behalf; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Priby Council, to Publiſh Our Royal Pleaſure to be, and We do hereby ſtrictly Prohibit and Forbid all and every Our Loving Subjects whatſoever, Except the ſaid Company and their Succeſſors, and others Trading by the ſaid Companies Licence; to Trade into, Viſit, or Haunt the ſaid East-Indies, or any Port, Creek, Haven or Place within the Limits in the ſaid Company's Charter, Granted to them by Our late Brother in the Thirteenth Year of his Reign, upon Pain of Our high Diſpleaſure, and of being Proceeded againſt as Contemners of Our Laws and Royal Authority, and alſo of incurring the Forfeiture and Loſs of the Goods and Merchandiſes, and the Ships and Veſſels with their Furniture, when and ſo often as they ſhall be taken or found Trading or Navigating Within any of the Ports, Rivers, Creeks, Havens or Places Within the Limits of the ſaid Company's Charter, or beyond the Cape of Bona Speranza: And to the end Our Will and Pleaſure herein may be the better Obſerved and Executed, We do hereby alſo ſtrictly Require and Command Our Governours, Deputy Governours, Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Generals, Judges of Our Courts of Admiralty, Commanders of Our Forts and Caſtles, Captains of Our Royal Ships, Provoſt-Marſhals, Marſhals, Comptrollers, Collectors of Our Cuſtoms, Waitors, Searchers, and all other Our Officers and Miniſters, Civil and Military by Sea or Land, in all and every Our Foreign Dominions and Plantations, and alſo all and ſingular Captains and Commanders of Ships, and all other Perſons imployed or to be imployed in the Service of the ſaid East-India Company, to be aiding and aſſiſting to Attack, Arreſt, Take and Seize for Our Uſe the Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels With their Furniture, Goods, Wares, and Merchandiſes, of all and every Our Subjects, other then the ſaid Company and their Succeſſors, and ſuch as ſhall be Imployed or Licenſed by them, Which they ſhall find on Sea or Land, Within the Limits of Our ſaid Charter Granted to the ſaid Company, according to the Tenor of the ſaid Charter Granted to the ſaid Company, and to proceed to Condemnation thereof in any of Our Courts in Our ſaid Foreign Dominions and Plantations, upon Pain of Our High Diſpleaſure, and as they Will Anſwer the Contrary at their Perils: And We do by this Our Proclamation Require and Command all and every of Our Subjects except ſuch Who are of the ſaid Company, or Imployed or Licenſed by the ſaid Company, Who are or reſide Within any of the Parts and Places in the East-Indies, or Within any of the Limits of the ſaid Companies Charter, or are upon the Seas in order to their Voyages thither, that they and every of them do Within the ſpace of Eight Months next enſuing after the Date hereof return into this Our Kingdom upon Pain and Penalty that ſhall fall thereon.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the Firſt Day of *April* 1685. In the Firſt Year of Our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

London Printed by the Aſſigns of *John Bill* deceas'd: And by *Henry Hill* and *Thomas Newcomb*, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1685.